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*The Dawn of Italian Independence. Italy from the Congress of Vienna, 1814, to the Fall of Venice, 1849.* By William Roscoe Thayer. In Two Volumes. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1893. 8vo, pp. 453, 446. With Maps.

IN our last number we had the pleasure of calling attention to a remarkably good piece of work on an important period of European history, from the pen of an American scholar. Now we have a still more ambitious work on a still more interesting period from another American. Both Mr. Perkins' "France Under the Regency," and Mr. Thayer's "The Dawn of Italian Independence," are from the same eminent publishers who have done so much for American literature, Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, and both works reflect credit upon that literature. As we have intimated, Mr. Thayer's work is more ambitious than that of Mr. Perkins—whether it will be more ambitious still, by being made to cover the erection of Italy into a united nation under the guidance of Cavour, is a point on which we are left in the dark, since Mr. Thayer has not seen fit to give us a word of preface. We hope, however, that he will not drop the curtain on us for good after giving us such an interesting prologue.

We may say at once to our readers in recommending this book that Mr. Thayer does not hesitate to range himself with those historians who believe that, however much scientific methods may be introduced into historical composition, there is still always room for the historian to exercise his imagination and his powers of literary art. In other words, Mr. Thayer is not a dry-as-dust, not a colossal German piler up of facts, but an historian who orders his narrative according to those canons of composition which have made the histories of Thucydides, Tacitus, Gibbon, Mommsen, and Macaulay rank among the world's masterpieces of artistic prose. We will not pretend to say that Mr. Thayer is the equal of the great men we have named; we will not say that he is the equal of the great American group of historians, Prescott, Motley, and Parkman; but we do say that he belongs to the

type of historians that these men have rendered illustrious. We do say that he has entered a vigorous protest against the prevalent idea that the American historical student ought to study a small section only of his own country's history and present the results of his studies in as unattractive a form as possible. In other words, Mr. Thayer is an artist as well as an historical delver, and, if he does hold a little too closely to Carlyle, his two volumes are none the less a noble treatment of a noble theme.

The interest, the importance, the nobility of that theme we need hardly insist upon. There may be a few among us who still think of the Italians as a set of shiftless, greasy beggars and organ-grinders, but these traces of John Bull insularity—for they are due to our English origin—are rapidly disappearing. Those of us who care anything for contemporary history or literature or science, know that the Italian nation now holds an enviable position among European commonwealths, and we know that the history of the struggle made to attain that position is a record the interest and the pathos and the glory of which can never die. Mr. Thayer gives us a few chapters of this record, and there is no other book in English that does it so well. No one who aspires to know something about one of the greatest struggles for right and liberty ever waged upon this planet; no one who desires to have his sense for fair play and his patriotic feelings stirred into activity, can afford to refrain from reading, and if possible, owning these fascinating volumes.

We have now spoken our mind freely as to the general character of Mr. Thayer's book because we feel that it is only right for the critic to be enthusiastic when he can be, and because we know that there are few modern books in these book-making days that can be enthusiastically commended. We do not care to have it inferred, however, that Mr. Thayer cannot be faulted here and there throughout his admirable volumes. Occasionally there are minor slips, as, for example, the constant coupling of the names of Charlemagne and Stephen, especially on page 20, where it looks as

if Mr. Thayer had forgotten that it was Leo III. who crowned the great Frankish king, or that reference to *Scipio's* legions at Cannae (page 25), which is rather amusing. Then there is what is to our eyes the grave fault of underestimating that great instrument for civilization, the Mediæval Church; but perhaps it is too early yet to look to New England for an unbiased judgment of the Middle Ages and Roman Catholicism. Yet whatever may be our feelings with regard to particular statements, or the not infrequent digressions on political, moral, and religious topics that Mr. Thayer allows himself, our final judgment must inevitably be that he has treated a great subject with the dignity and the thoroughness it deserves.

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*Tools and the Man. Property and Industry under the Christian Law.*  
By Washington Gladden. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1893.

IF all men were Gradgrinds the Manchester school would have the last word in matters economic, but so long as the governing masses prefer the guidance of heart and soul to that of mind and pocket-book we shall find a constant restlessness under its laws, a tendency to revolt from their application, or indeed to deny their truth altogether, and to substitute for their inexorable logic the fairer and more winning principles of "Christian Socialism." Recent years have brought us many books in this kind. The Germans seem to have given the impulse which we now feel; but they had predecessors, as they have followers, in France, while England has lent a rather more tardy approval than America to the new doctrine. It is gaining ground everywhere, however, and within a few weeks the British government has stated officially that it no longer recognizes the principle of competition-wages. Surely Liberal traditions have been wounded in the house of their friends, and the disciples of Mill and Ricardo must feel the ground shaking under their feet.

The book before us is but another wave of the rising tide to which the author of this book has already contributed